

Oblon Docket: 245199US-90 CONT  
New CONT Application  
Inv: Yasuji HIRAMATSU, et al  
Preliminary Amendment

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following new paragraph at page 1, line 3:

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-156876, filed May 26, 2000, and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/030,123, filed May 16, 2002, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.